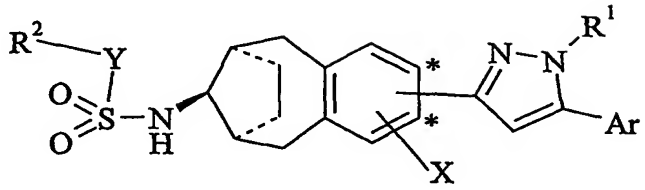
CLAIMS:

1. A compound of formula I:



I

wherein the pyrazole group is attached at one of the positions indicated by an asterisk and X is attached at a position adjacent thereto;

X represents H, OH, C_{1-4}alkoxy, Cl or F;

Y represents a bond, O or NR^3;

Ar represents phenyl or 6-membered heteroaryl, either of which bears 0-3 substituents independently selected from halogen, CF_3, CHF_2, CH_2F, NO_2, CN, OCF_3, C_{1-6}alkyl and C_{1-6}alkoxy;

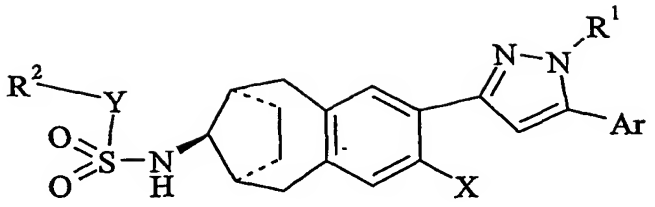
R^1 represents a hydrocarbon group of 1-5 carbon atoms which is optionally substituted with up to 3 halogen atoms; and

R^2 represents a hydrocarbon group of 1-10 carbon atoms which is optionally substituted with up to 3 halogen atoms, or heteroaryl of 5 or 6 ring atoms optionally bearing up to 3 substituents independently selected from halogen, CF_3, CHF_2, CH_2F, NO_2, CN, OCF_3, C_{1-6}alkyl and C_{1-6}alkoxy; or when Y represents NR^3, R^2 and R^3 together may complete a heterocyclic ring of up to 6 members which optionally bears up to 3 substituents independently selected from halogen, CF_3, CHF_2, CH_2F, NO_2, CN, OCF_3, C_{1-6}alkyl and C_{1-6}alkoxy;

R^3 represents H or C_{1-4}alkyl, or together with R^2 completes a heterocyclic ring as defined above;

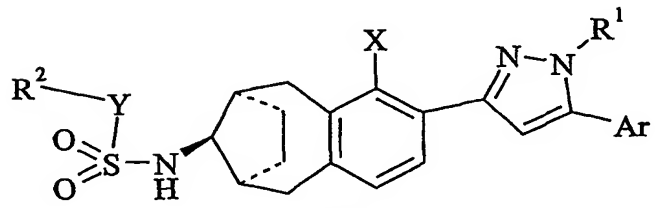
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. A compound according to claim 1 of formula IIa:



IIa

or formula IIIa:



IIIa

wherein X, Y, Ar, R^1 and R^2 are as defined in claim 1;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. A compound according to any previous claim wherein X represents H.

4. A compound according to any previous claim wherein Y is a bond and R^2 represents optionally substituted phenyl or heteroaryl or C_{1-6}alkyl.

5. A compound according to any of claims 1-3 wherein Y is O and R^2 represents alkyl or cycloalkyl of up to 6 carbon atoms.

6. A compound according to any of claims 1-3 wherein Y is NH or NMe and R^2 represents alkyl or cycloalkyl of up to 6 carbon atoms which is optionally substituted with up to 3 fluorine atoms.

7. A compound according to any of claims 1-8 wherein Y is NR^3 and R^2 and R^3 complete a heterocyclic ring.

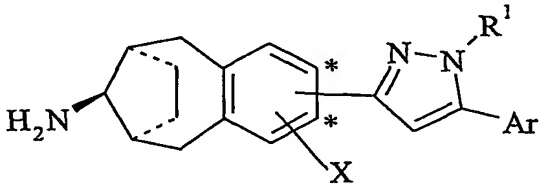
8. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any previous claim and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

9. A compound according to any of claims 1-7 for use in therapy.

10. The use of a compound according to any of claims 1-7 for the manufacture of a medicament for treatment or prevention of Alzheimer's disease.

11. A method of treatment of a subject suffering from or prone to Alzheimer's disease which comprises administering to that subject an effective amount of a compound according to any of claims 1-7.

12. A method of preparing a compound according to claim 1 comprising reaction of an amine (1) with R^2-Y-SO_2Cl:



(1)

where X, Y, Ar, R^1 and R^2 and as defined in claim 1.